

October 27, 2005

Dear Plan Commission Member:

First I want to thank you for your willingness to volunteer for your community. Downers Grove is fortunate to have many residents who are willing to give of their time to make this a great community. As Mayor of Downers Grove one of my duties is to appoint members of the community to almost every village board or commission in Downers Grove. During my first six years as Mayor the process that I had in place for board and commission appointments was as follows:

I assigned each of the village council members to a few village boards or commissions as liaisons. Their job was to go through the residents' profiles and resumes, conduct interviews and then make their recommendations to me. In six years as Mayor I never once questioned any of the Commissioners' recommendations. Whoever the Commissioner recommended to me I put forward for approval. In my first six years as Mayor I can only remember one time where the Mayor's volunteer board and commission appointment was not unanimously approved. One time Commissioner Schnell did not want to vote for an individual that Commissioner Gilbert recommended to me. We discussed the appointment and I believe eventually the individual was voted on to the commission by a 4-1 vote.

On August 31, 2005 I had 22 board vacancies or terms that had expired as of April 30, 2005. This was one of several reasons why late this summer I had the village attorney notify the village council that effective immediately I would re-evaluate the council liaison assignments for all boards and commissions and until I reassigned council liaisons, I would be responsible for interviewing and recommending all board appointments.

On October 7, 2005 I had a memo go out to the village council letting them know I was appointing 3 members to the Tourism and Events Commission and another memo went out to the council on October 11, 2005 letting them know I would be appointing Thomas Sisul to the vacancy on the Police and Fire Board. Both these board appointments would be on the October 18<sup>th</sup> Active Agenda. Commissioner Sue McConnell contacted me during the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss my appointment of Thomas Sisul to the Police and Fire Board. She informed me she would not vote for Thomas Sisul. On the day of October 18<sup>th</sup> I talked to every village commissioner about the meeting that night. Much of the discussion centered around the vote on National City. With the exception of Commissioner McConnell no other Commissioner said a word to me about my board and commission appointees on the agenda that night. As has been the village's past practice, we invite each Mayor appointee to attend the village council meeting where they are

voted on to the board or commission. Commissioner Tully called the three Tourism and Events Commission appointees and invited them to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> and I called Thomas Sisul and invited him to also attend. I also informed Thomas Sisul that it appeared he was not going to be unanimously approved by the village council and that Commissioner McConnell would be voting against him and it should be a 6-1 vote. Much to my surprise that night after Commissioner Tully made the motion for my board appointees no one seconded the motion.

After the meeting, I asked the village attorney to send an e-mail to the council stating that I was bringing my board and commission appointments back the next week October 25<sup>th</sup>. The village attorney was to be advised if the commissioners would be voting in favor of my appointees. Commissioner Tully and Sandack responded that they were supporting my appointments and Commissioner McConnell again reiterated she would vote against Thomas Sisul. Commissioners Schnell, Urban and Waldack remained silent and did not respond. Finally on October 24<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Urban returned my phone call from the prior week and said he would vote against Thomas Sisul. On October 25<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Schnell returned my phone call and said she was voting against Thomas Sisul and finally Tuesday night Commissioner Waldack said he was voting against Thomas Sisul. Needless to say, once it became evident that four commissioners were voting against a volunteer appointment, I pulled the resolution Tuesday night.

Had Commissioner Schnell, Urban and Waldack informed me that they would not vote for Thomas Sisul when they got the memo on October 11<sup>th</sup>, I would never have put his name forward publicly just to be voted down. For any of you who don't know Thomas Sisul, he spent 10 years on the village council and is a former recipient of the Downers Grove citizen of the year for his long time volunteerism to our community. While many residents over the years thank me for the revitalization of the downtown and the progress our community has made, I always tell the residents that many people were instrumental in these accomplishments. Yes, a lot has been accomplished while I have been the Mayor and leader of the village, however no one deserves more credit than Thomas Sisul for what has been accomplished. For Commissioners McConnell, Schnell, Urban and Waldack to publicly let his name appear on a resolution and then not vote for him is inexcusable.

As a result of their action Tuesday night and with the power vest in the Mayor I have removed all members of the Plan Commission, Parking & Traffic Commission, Storm Water & Flood Plain Oversight Commission, Human Services Commission and the Community Grants Commission. These were Village Boards & Commissions that Commissioners McConnell, Schnell and Urban were liaisons to; they interviewed residents and made recommendations to me.

I will be contacting each one of you in the next few weeks to get together and reinterview you for the Plan Commission. I will also be looking at resumes and profiles of other Downers Grove residents interested in serving, as well as discussing my future appointments with our village staff. This process will be followed for all village boards and commissions.

Again thank you for the time you have spent volunteering for your community and I apologize that you are now caught up in Village Commissioner politics and personal agendas. Our Plan Commission is a very vital board in the community and I look forward to getting together with you in the near future to discuss your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Krajewski  
Downers Grove Mayor